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「死にたがりの道化」に引き続き、頑張りますので、
どうぞよろしくお願いいたします。

高坂りと

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文学少女"と飢え渇く幽霊(ゴースト)

1

原作：野村美月
作画：高坂りと
キャラクター原案：竹岡美穂

GC JOKER
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"A literary girl" and a ghost who hunger and thirst
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ISBN978-4-7575-3340-0

C9979 ¥571E

雑誌48124-88
定価：本体571円＋税
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野村美月

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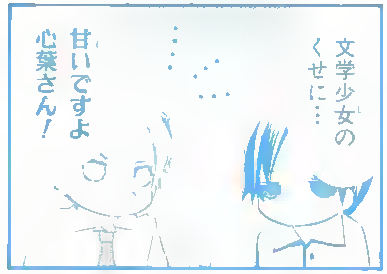

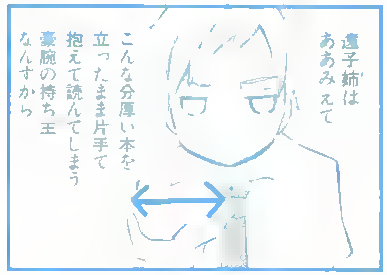

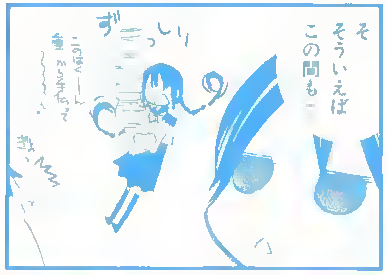

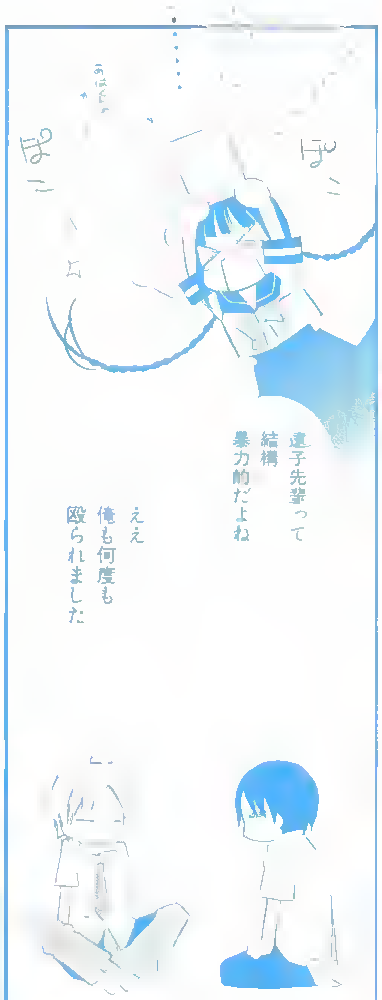

"A literary girl" and a ghost who hunger and thirst

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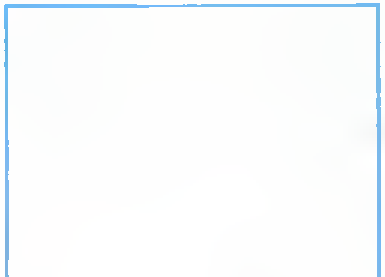

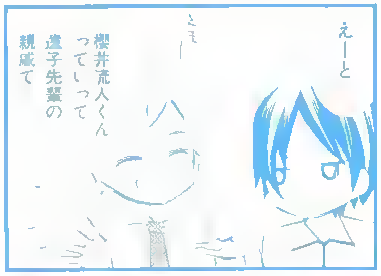

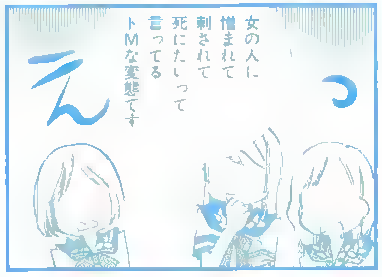

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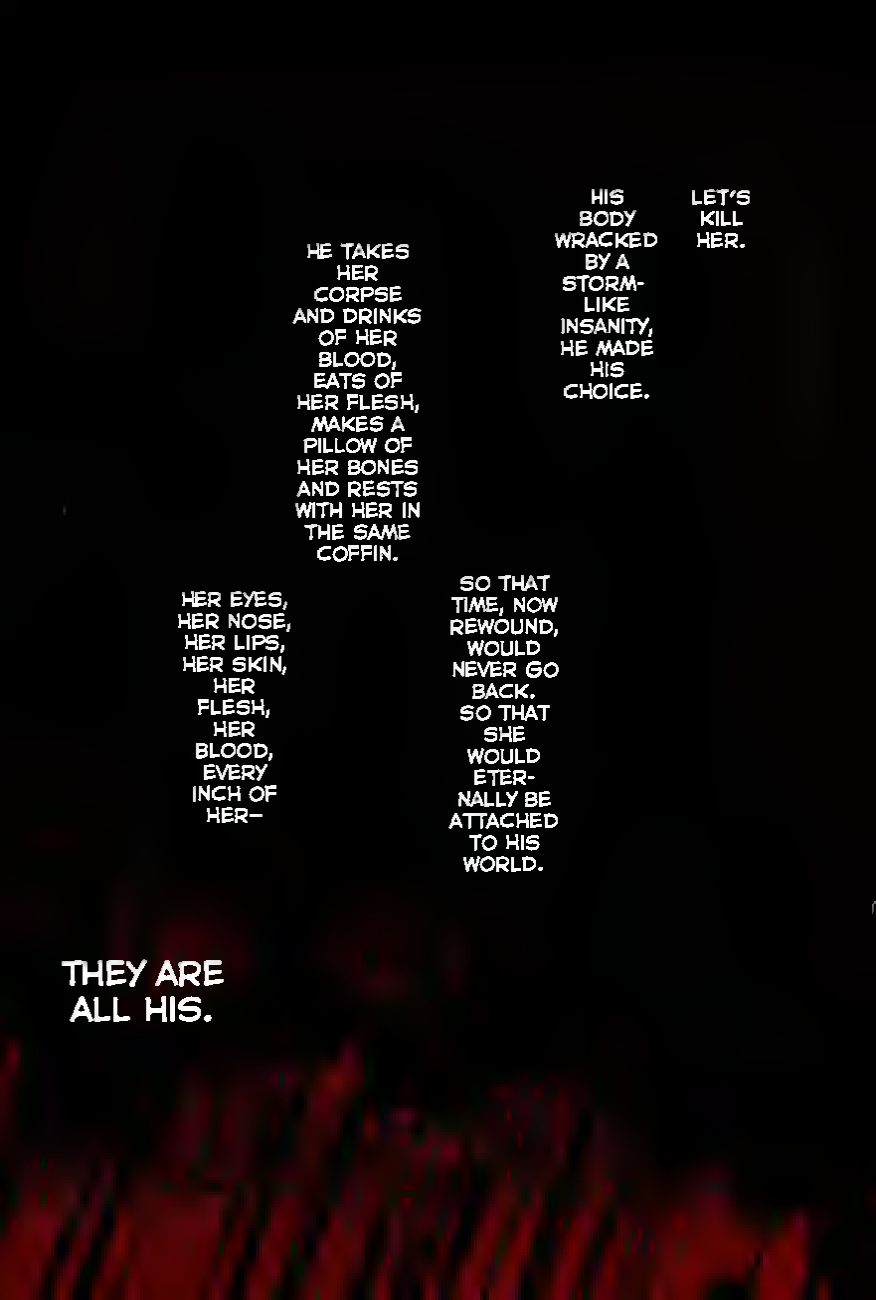
LET'S KILL HER.
HIS BODY WRACKED BY A STORM-LIKE INSANITY, HE MADE HIS CHOICE.
HE TAKES HER CORPSE AND DRINKS OF HER BLOOD, EATS OF HER FLESH, MAKES A PILLOW OF HER BONES AND RESTS WITH HER IN THE SAME COFFIN.
SO THAT TIME, NOW REWOUND, WOULD NEVER GO BACK. SO THAT SHE WOULD ETER-NALLY BE ATTACHED TO HIS WORLD.
HER EYES, HER NOSE, HER LIPS, HER SKIN, HER FLESH, HER BLOOD, EVERY INCH OF HER—
THEY ARE ALL HIS.

"Bungaku Shoujo"
to Ue Kawaku Yuurei
Chapter 1
Secret Letters
Story: Nomura Midzuki Art: Kousaka Rito
Character Design: Takeoka Miho

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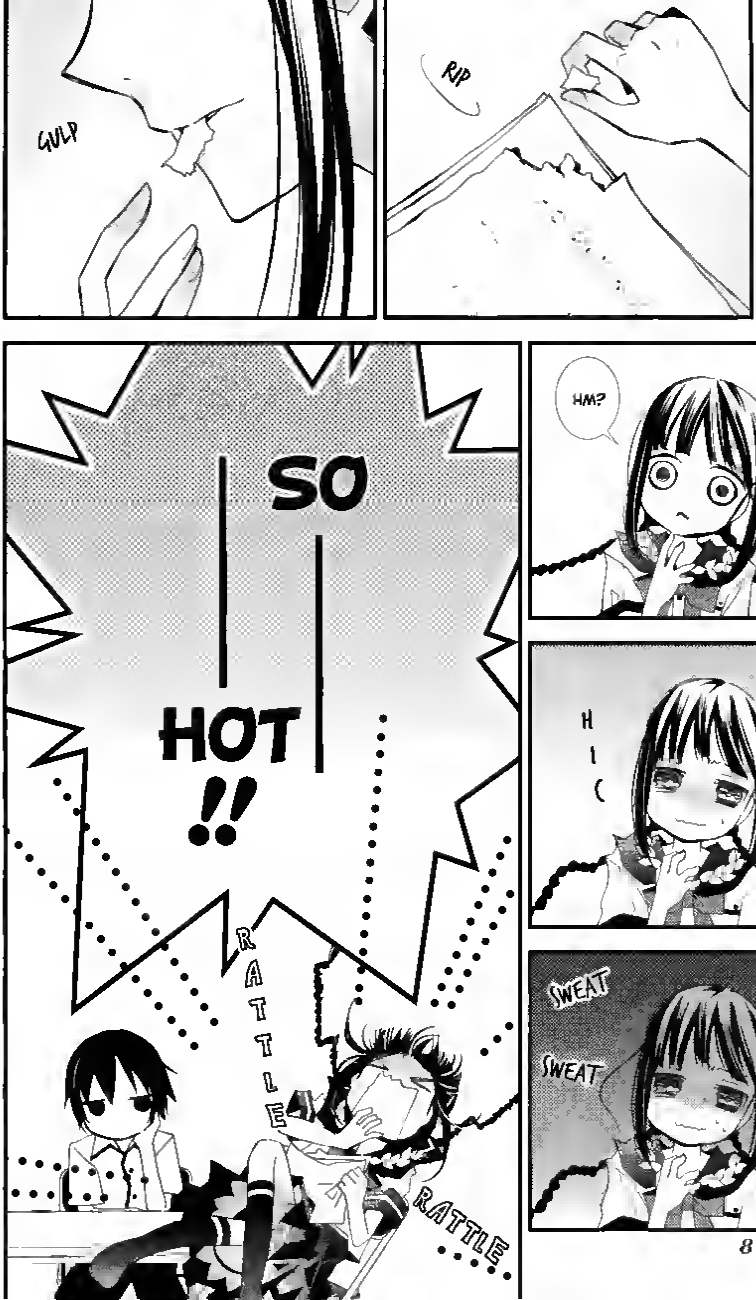
wordpress.com

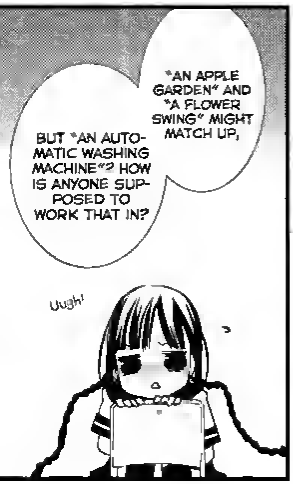
"THIS IS A MISANTHROPIST'S HEAVEN."
THOSE WORDS MAY HAVE BEEN SAID BY A WARRIOR WHO WITHDREW TO THE COUNTRYSIDE,
BUT DURING THE SECOND HALF OF MY THIRD YEAR OF JUNIOR HIGH,
I REFUSED TO LEAVE MY OWN ROOM.
NOT BECAUSE I AM A MISANTHROPIST,
BUT RATHER BECAUSE THE FIRST NOVEL I EVER WROTE HAPPENED TO WIN A AWARD FOR NEW NOVELISTS.
I HAPPENED TO BE THE YOUNGEST TO WIN THE AWARD,
AND I HAPPENED TO HAVE WRITTEN IT UNDER THE FEMININE PENNAME INOUE MIU.
BECAUSE OF THOSE HAPPENSTANCES,
THE BOOK SUDDENLY BECAME A BESTSELLER,
IN EXCHANGE,
AND THE "MYSTERIOUS, BRILLIANT, AND PRETTY YOUNG AUTHOR" BECAME THE SUBJECT OF RUMORS.
THE GIRL I HAD LOVED EVER SINCE I WAS A CHILD
WAS TAKEN FROM ME FOREVER

IF I COULD GO BACK IN TIME,
JUST A FEW MONTHS-
BUT SUCH A CONVENIENT WISH WOULD NEVER BE GRANTED.
MY BODY WAS COVERED IN A COLD SWEAT.
IT FELT AS IF A VICE WERE CRUSHING MY HEART.
I COULDN'T BREATHE.
I SHUT MY EYES,
I COVERED MY EARS,
TRIED TO CUT MYSELF OFF FROM THE WORLD
TRIED TO PRETEND IT HAD NEVER HAPPENED.

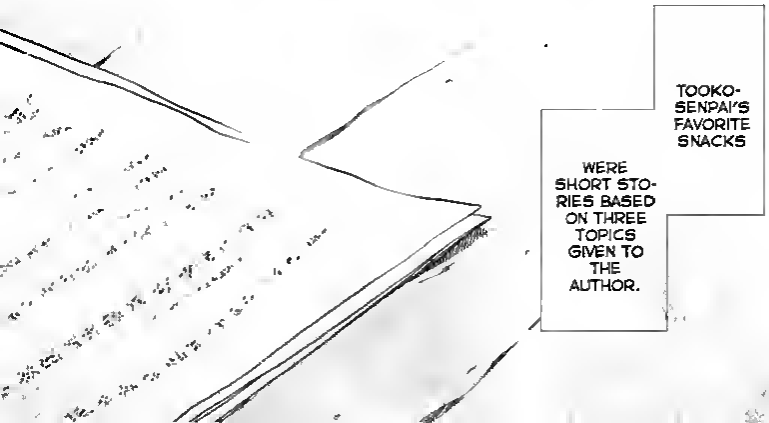
AT THE END OF A LONG WINTER,
I FINALLY CRAWLED OUT OF BED,
TOOK THE ENTRANCE EXAMS,
AND ENTERED HIGH SCHOOL.
THEN, DURING THE SUMMER OF MY SECOND YEAR,
I FOUND MYSELF IN A TWO-PERSON LITERATURE CLUB
DILIGENTLY WRITING SNACKS FOR A "LITERATURE GIRL."
SO SWEET!


GULP
RIP
SO
HOT
!!
RATTLE
RATTLE
HM?
H
I
(
SWEAT
SWEAT
SWEAT

THIS STORY'S TOO SPICY, KONOHA-KUN!
SNOT IS GOING TO H NG OUT OF MY NOSE!
MY TONGUE'S GOING TO BREAK APART!
MY EYES ARE GOING TO BOIL!
Uuh
Uuh


"AN APPLE GARDEN" AND "A FLOWER SWING" MIGHT MATCH UP,
BUT "AN AUTOMATIC WASHING MACHINE"? HOW IS ANYONE SUPPOSED TO WORK THAT IN?
Uugh!

MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE THE TOPICS DIDN'T GO WELL TOGETHER.


TOOKO-SENPAI'S FAVORITE SNACKS
WERE SHORT STORIES BASED ON THREE TOPICS GIVEN TO THE AUTHOR.

TOOKO-SENPAI IS A THIRD-YEAR, MY SENIOR,
WHO IS ALSO A MONSTER WHO EATS STORIES.
JUST AS YOU OR I EAT BREAD AND WATER,
SHE EATS THE WRITTEN WORD AND PRINTED BOOKS,
FINDING THEM DELICIOUS.
THOUGH IF I WERE TO CALL HER A MONSTER,
I FIGURE SHE WOULD SAY
DON'T CALL ME A MONSTER!
WHO LOVES EVERY SINGLE BOOK IN THE WORLD SO MUCH THAT I JUST WANT TO EAT THEM ALL UP!
I'M JUST A "LITERATURE GIRL"
WHILE PUFFING HER CHEEKS.

I SHOULD GO CHECK THE MAIL-BOX IN THE COURTYARD
AND SEE IF THERE'S SOME SWEEEET LET-TERS IN THERE FOR ME
OH YEAH!
MY TONGUE IS STILL NUMB.
THE ONE TOOKO-SENPAI ILLEGALLY SET UP
Hah. It's still there?
THE MAIL-BOX IN THE COURT-YARD--
TOOKO-SENPAI'S FAVORITE THING
AND SHE HAS A SPE-CIAL FOND-NESS FOR SWEET LOVE STORIES.
IN ORDER TO TASTE THEM, SHE AGREES TO BE A CON-SULTANT IN MATTERS OF LOVE.
ARE HAND-WRITTEN STORIES OF WHICH ONLY ONE COPY EXISTS,
SHE HAS THE CLIENT WRITE HIS OR HER PURE FEEL-INGS IN A REPORT AS PAYMENT.
Love Letters
We will help you succeed in love. Those who are interested should write us a letter.
From the Literature Club
And thanks to that mailbox I've had to ghostwrite love letters and all sorts of stuff~

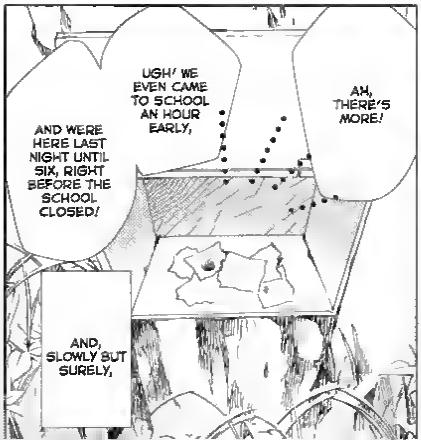
THIS IS HORRIBLE NEWS!
LOOK AT THIS, KONOHA-KUN!

SAVE ME
DISAPPEAR
IT'S SO HARD
I'M SCARED
HATE
A GHOST IS

AND WHAT ARE THESE NUMBERS SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
A PRANK?
IF SO, IT'S CERTAINLY IN BAD TASTE
ALSO, "US"?
WELL IF IT'S A CHALLENGE, THEN IT IS A PRANK, NOTHING TO MAKE A BIG DEAL OUT OF!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, KONOHA-KUN?
DON'T DRAG ME INTO THIS
"43 31" HAS TO MEAN "YOU'RE GOING TO DIE, I'LL CRUSH YOU ALL"
"4" CAN BE READ AS "DEATH"
I GUESS THEY'RE CHALLENGING US
(TL/N Basically, this is all wordplay using creative pronunciations of the Vocaloid numbers)
NO,
WE CANNOT ALLOW SOMEONE WHO WOULD INSERT INTO OUR MAILBOX SUCH A BASE AND BOORISH THING TO WALK FREE!
EVEN IF IT'S JUST A PRANK, TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO MY PRECIOUS BOX OF SWEETS–
NO,
TO PUT IN THE LITERATURE CLUB'S SACRED MAILBOX SUCH A FOUL-TASTING–

FROM NOW ON, WE'RE GOING TO KEEP WATCH OVER THE MAILBOX!
THIS IS AN ORDER FROM YOUR UPPER-CLASSMAN, KONOHA-KUN!
NO!
WELL, I'VE GOT FINALS COMING UP, SO I'M HEADING HOME.
WHEN TOOKO-SENPAI HELD MY ARM
AGAINST HER WORRISOMELY FLAT CHEST
AND WOULDN'T LET ME GO,
AT THAT MOMENT,
HAH
I GAVE IN

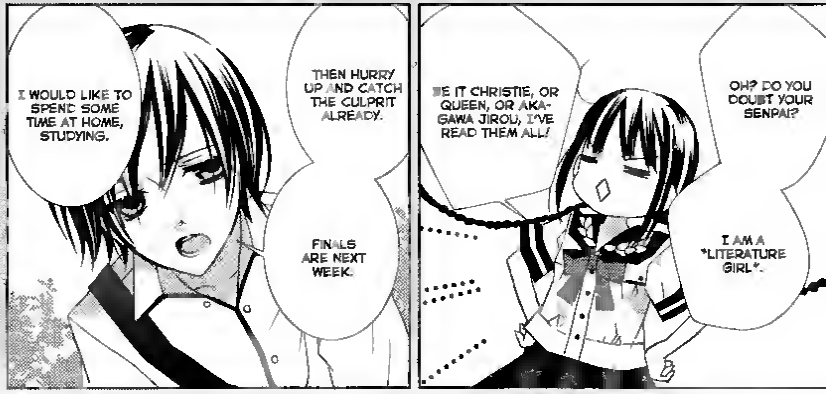
ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME WE GIVE UP AND HEAD HOME, TOOKO-SENPAI?
IT'S ALREADY AFTER 9 O'CLOCK.
NOT YET.
THOUGH I THOUGHT THE MEMOS WOULD JUST BE A ONE-OFF EVENT,
MORE KEPT COMING EVERY DAY.
by 雄


AH, THERE'S MORE!
UGH! WE EVEN CAME TO SCHOOL AN HOUR EARLY,
AND WERE HERE LAST NIGHT UNTIL SIX, RIGHT BEFORE THE SCHOOL CLOSED!
AND, SLOWLY BUT SURELY,

FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS,
TOOKO-SENPAI BEGAN DRAGGING ME AROUND EVERYWHERE FROM DAWN TILL DUSK

TODAY. WE WILL NOT MOVE ONE STEP FROM THIS SPOT UNTIL THE CRIMINAL SHOWS HIS FACE!
WE WON'T SLEEP TONIGHT. KONOHA-KUN!
WHICH BRINGS US HERE.
I have
WE KEEP GETTING MORE AND MORE NUMBERS...
WHAT DO YOU THINK THEY MEAN?
THE WORDS "HATE", "STAY AWAY", AND "GHOST" KEEP APPEARING
THE LETTERS ALL SAY THE SAME THING
AND THE INEXPLICABLE SERIES OF NUMBERS CONTINUED-

THAT DIDN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.
YOU NEED TO WORK ON YOUR READING COMPREHENSION, KONOHA-KUN.
SIGH
WELL, "14 41 475 3 24 21 43 2 11 3 16 43" WOULD MEAN "HEAVY DEATH; GOOD; DIE AND GO; SO; YOU TWO WILL DIE; THE TWO DODGE; YOU'RE GOING TO DIE; BOTH OF YOU, HEE HEE! SO; YOU CAN'T AVOID, YOU'RE GOING TO DIE".
THAT MAKES EVEN LESS SENSE.
SIMPLY PUT, IT SAYS "A HEAVY ROCK WILL FALL AND YOU'LL BOTH DIE GO!"
AND HOW DO YOU EVEN KNOW IF THAT'S ACCURATE?
HUH?
(TL/N: The random "GO" is there in the original, written in English)


I WOULD LIKE TO SPEND SOME TIME AT HOME, STUDYING.
THEN HURRY UP AND CATCH THE CULPRIT ALREADY.
FINALS ARE NEXT WEEK.
BE IT CHRISTIE, OR QUEEN, OR AKAGAWA JIROU, I'VE READ THEM ALL!
OH? DO YOU DOUBT YOUR SENPAI?
I AM A "LITERATURE GIRL".

YES, LIKE PASSING.
KONOHA-KUN, THERE ARE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS IN SCHOOL LIFE THAN MEMORIZING FORMULAS AND SYMBOLS.

LET'S AT LEAST GET A LITTLE STUDYING DONE.
Uugh
YEAH
THERE'S ONLY A FEW DAYS LEFT UNTIL FINALS...

THIS STUFF IS JUST THE BASICS.
DIDN'T YOU LEARN IT ALL LAST YEAR?
WOW, YOU'RE WORKING ON SUCH A HARD PROBLEM!
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE SECRETLY PREPARING TO TAKE ON THE TOKYO UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE EXAM?

KONOHA-KUN, YOU'RE JUST TOO SERIOUS

COME TO THINK OF IT,
CAN YOU EAT NUMBERS?

I WAS NEVER MUCH GOOD WITH MATH OR MACHINES ..
D-did I, now?

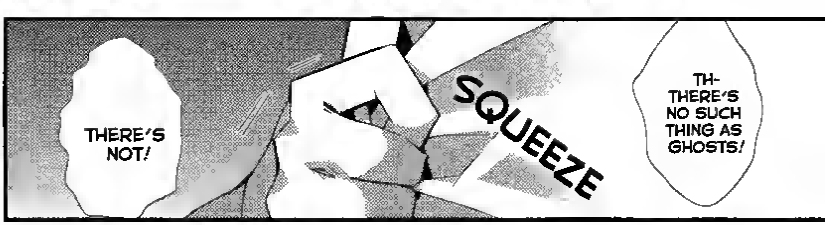
IT'S THE SAME.
SO WHAT ABOUT THE ALPHABET?
IF I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE WORDS MEAN, THEY'RE JUST DRIED-OUT MACARONI SHAPED LIKE THE ABCs.
BUT NUMBERS ARE JUST NUMBERS.
I CAN, BUT...
THEY DON'T MEAN ANYTHING.
WHEN I EAT WORDS, FIRST I LOOK AT THEM, FEEL THEM IN MY HEART, AND ONLY THEN EAT THEM.
SO WHEN I EAT THEM, IT'S LIKE CHEWING DRY, UNCOOKED MACARONI.
BUT I STILL WANT TO READ ALL THE LITERATURE IN THE WORLD, EVEN FOREIGN WORKS
THAT'S WHY I'M WORKING SO HARD ON MY ENGLISH.
IT'D BE HORRIBLE IF I COULDN'T READ WORKS SO GOOD THEY WOULD STIR MY HEART
JUST BECAUSE THEY WERE WRITTEN USING AN ALPHABET.
AND MY FRENCH, AND ITALIAN, AND GERMAN, AND CHINESE

MAYBE A MATH PROBLEM THAT YOU HAVE TO WORK REALLY HARD TO SOLVE WOULD HAVE ITS OWN SPECIAL TASTE.
PROBABLY.
UGH. I... DOUBT IT.
CLASSICS SOMETIMES THROW ME FOR A LOOP.
I SUPPOSE.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE GOOD AT EVERYTHING YOURSELF!
MMNGH!
C'MON, GRAB YOUR TEXTBOOK AND LET'S START!
LET ME HELP YOU OUT!
BUT THAT'S MY SPECIALTY!
HAVING TO CONSTANTLY LOOK UP WORDS IN A DICTIONARY IS FRUSTRATING,
NOTHING MOVES ME LIKE A WORD THAT HOLDS SO MUCH MEANING THAT IT SHINES AND SPARKLES
BUT I THINK EVERY SINGLE WORD IS IMMENSELY IMPORTANT.
A WORD LIKE THAT
IS THE SWEETEST THING IN THE WORLD.

DO
KYAH!
NNG
DO
21:59
NNG
SIGH
DO
NN
NNG

SFX: Crack
...OPEN IT...
AND PUT THEM IN
SHIVER

IS THAT... AN ACTUAL GHOST?!
IT... IT CAN'T BE!
IT CAN'T!
IT'S JUST AN ILLUSION!
RATTLE
RATTLE


TH-THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS GHOSTS!
SQUEEZE
THERE'S NOT!

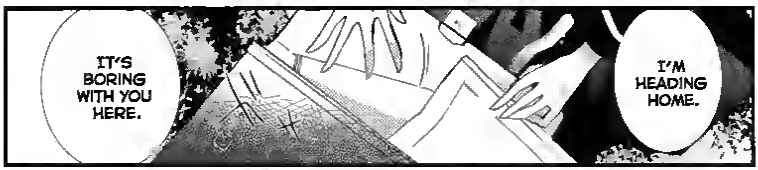
THAT'S THE OLD STYLE OF UNIFORM FOR OUR SCHOOL
AND IT'S SUMMER, BUT SHE'S WEARING THE WINTER ONE?!

SO SHE'S THE ONE PUTTING THE MEMOS IN THE BOX?
UGH... THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS GHOSTS!

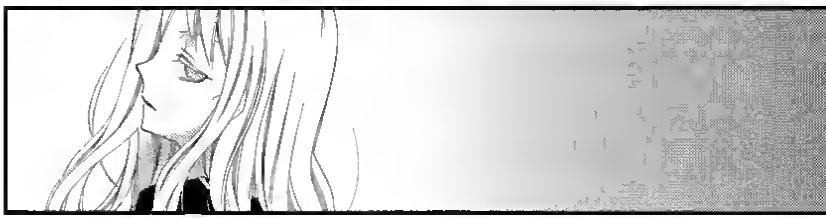
WHO... WHO ARE YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I AM KUJOU KAYANO.
AND WHERE I GO AND WHAT I DO IS MY BUSINESS.

I WILL DO WHAT I WANT,
WHEN I WANT.
WHO IS THIS GIRL?!
SHE LOOKS SO MEEK, YET CARRIES HERSELF SO STRONGLY.
I AM THE PRESIDENT OF THE LITERATURE CLUB, AMANO TOOKO.
ARE YOU THE ONE WHO'S BEEN PLACING STRANGE MEMOS IN OUR MAILBOX EVERY NIGHT?
ARE THE LETTERS FOR US?
OR SOMEONE ELSE?
UNCLE HIRONOBU WATCHES OVER ME AT OUR ESTATE.
HE'S ALWAYS WHINING ABOUT SOMETHING OR ANOTHER; IT'S SO ANNOYING.
THAT'S RIGHT.
I'VE BEEN WRITING THOSE LETTERS.

I WON'T TELL YOU.


IT'S BORING WITH YOU HERE.
I'M HEADING HOME.

WHAT DO THESE NUMBERS MEAN?!
WAIT A SECOND!



THAT IS A SECRET BETWEEN ME AND HIM.
HER EYES LOOKED SO ADULT AND BEWITCHING.
ALMOST LIKE...

WAIT!

H-HEY, DID SOMETHING HAPPEN
TO CAUSE YOU TO DO THIS?
PLEASE, I'LL LISTEN TO WHATEVER YOU

THAT OF AN IMMORTAL
WHO HAS LIVED FOR EONS.

BWE HEH
TE HE
HEH HEH
BWEH HEH
HEH HEH
HEH HEH
HEH HEH
HEH HEH
HEH HEH
HEH HEH
HEH HEH
HEH HEH
HEH HEH. THERE'D BE NO POINT.

AFTER
ALL,

I DIED
LONG AGO.

FEAR
FEAR
FEAR
FEAR

TOOKO-SEMPAI!
HER... HER ARMS..
THEY WERE SO THIN.
LIKE SHE WAS JUST SKIN AND BONES.

LET'S KILL HER
YEAH, KILL, KILL HER.
SHE WAS SO COLD, LIKE SNOW OR A WHITE ICICLE, AS TEN FINGERS TIGHTLY SQUEEZED AROUND HER NECK.
AND AS HE CHOKED HER, HE HOARSELY WHISPERED

"GOODBYE, KAYANO, YOU TRAITOR."